

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

9/16/09

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of SB), Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Debra Herring, Toni Frohoff, Kristi Birney Rieman (EDC), John Ugoretz (US Navy).

CINMS Staff: Sean Hastings.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

John Ugoretz (re)introduced himself. John has been hired as the Navy's environmental staff at San Nicholas Island.

IA: ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jessie Altstatt announced that a research cruise to Anacapa Island discovered an extensive bed of non native brown algae – *saragassum phillissailim* – growing in recently disturbed area. Likely some at Santa Cruz as well. Source likely ballast water. There is a need to monitor and consider options for containment or removal. Jessie will present to the SAC in November.

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(a) The film A Sea Change will be shown at Natural History museum on October 27 and a panel discussion will be held. Bruce, Chris Mobley and a researcher will lead the discussion.

(b) Kristi updated the CWG on how the Ocean Acidification report prepared by CWG and adopted by SAC has made its way through other Sanctuary Councils and through the Sanctuary program. Sean detailed progress on NOAA planning for OA research and monitoring.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

(a) The latest recommendations from the Ship Strike report were discussed and presented for edits. A small number of mostly formatting edits were suggested.

(b) Strategies to Reduce Ship Strikes were discussed, along with response to efforts so far. Discussion focused on voluntary vs. mandatory measures, as well as education and outreach strategies.

(c) The Council will consider the report and recommendations and consider a motion to move the report forward. CWG members were asked to consider how this report can be made most effective – who else would the SAC like CINMS manager to share the report with? The SAC will consider the substance of the report rather than trying to

wordsmith.

(d) Possible responses by NMFS and the shipping industry were discussed. Implications of a shift of vessel traffic to areas outside the Channel were discussed.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

Greg reported on the progress and status of the MLPA process. A final round of stakeholder MPA designs has been completed; three arrays are now on the table representing a largely conservation oriented proposal, a largely fishing proposal and a “cross interest” proposal. The Blue Ribbon Task Force will meet to discuss and perhaps adopt a “preferred alternative” in Long Beach October 20-22.

V. OFFICE OF NATIOANL MARINE SANCTUARIES AWARD

Sean announced that the ONMS has a “partner of the year” award and this year our own Conservation Working Group has been selected. The selection carries a \$5,000 award to the Sanctuary for continued work.

VI. SANCTUARY ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING

Sean detailed the current process of considering reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act process and the important separate process of Congressional appropriation to carry out this mandate.